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Community *notes*

Business Rural (BR) & Business Rural Crossroads (BRX) Zoning Workshops

The Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) is inviting anyone who lives, works or commutes through the Highland, Glenwood, Dayton, and Lisbon to brainstorm and collaborate with planners to capture zoning recommendations for improving the areas around the County's rural crossroads. At these workshops, attendees will provide feedback about how the zoning in the crossroads areas can be improved. Four workshops will be held at the following locations and times:

Highland Crossroads on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Church, Parish Hall, 12700 Hall Shop Rd, Highland,
Maryland



Glenwood Community on Tuesday, April 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Gary J. Arthur Community Center, 2400 MD-97, Cooksville,
Maryland



Dayton Community on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Dayton Oaks Elementary School, Cafeteria, 4691 Ten Oaks Rd,
Dayton, Maryland



Town of Lisbon on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Lisbon Volunteer Fire Company, Social Hall, 1330 Woodbine Rd,
Woodbine, Maryland

For more information, call DPZ at 410-313-2350.

Greeting

Mother Nature has graced us with a few days of spring. With spring, comes the infamous spring cleaning. As you are outside sprucing up your yards, please take an extra minute to clear away the signs of winter that have gathered on our neighborhood sidewalks. You'll be part of the team ensuring pedestrian friendly neighborhoods.

May Kay

2016 Children's Discovery Fair: Books Come Alive!

Join the Howard County Library System at the East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way, Columbia on Saturday, April 9, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for a celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families. This free event includes hands-on activities relating to classic children's literature including interactive games, songs, crafts and stories. The theme for 2016 is "Books Come Alive!" Admission is free. Please bring a non-perishable donation for the Howard County Food Bank.



This event is part of the "Launch into Learning" school readiness initiative and is sponsored by the Howard County Early Childhood Advisory Council and Howard County Library System. For more information, call 410-313-1940 or 410-313-7750 or e-mail children@howardcountymd.gov.

Come Home to Howard County

Howard County Housing 10th Annual Housing Fair takes place on Saturday April 9, 2016, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Howard High School (8700 Old Annapolis Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043). This is their biggest annual event - more exhibitors, more tours and more prizes - you don't want to miss it! Review the event highlights below and share with family & friends. Click [here](#) to pre-register now to receive event updates and express check-in at the fair.

Deviant Septet Performs

Deviant Septet will perform a diverse mix of music ranging from Igor Stravinsky to Josephine Baker on Saturday, April 9 at 8:00 p.m. The septet consists of a soprano and bass voice from every instrument family: violin and bass, clarinet and bassoon, trumpet and trombone, and percussion. Unique among the world's new music collectives, Deviant Septet is the only ensemble consisting solely of this instrumentation.

The first half of the program will feature Stravinsky's *L'Histoire du Soldat (The Soldier's Tale)*, in which a soldier makes a Faustian pact with the Devil. The plot unfolds through music, English narration and song, with the ensemble doubling as the characters. Guest artist, soprano Mellissa Hughes will join the septet, performing the role of The Devil. On the second half, the septet will perform Andre Jolivet's *Rhapsodie á Sept*, both an homage to Stravinsky, and a departure from the monumental work from which it derives its instrumentation. Soprano Mellissa Hughes will join the Deviants again for the program finale: a set of Josephine Baker's most famous songs, featuring world premier arrangements by the Deviant Septet.



The seven instrumentalists are Karen Kim, violin; Doug Balliett, bass; Bill Kalinkos, clarinet; Adrian Morejon, bassoon; Mike Gurfield, trumpet; Mike Lormand, trombone; and Jared Soldiviero, percussion.

The performance will be held in Smith Theatre, Horowitz Center for the Visual & Performing Arts, Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$32 for seniors, \$12 for full-time students (ages 9-17 are admitted free with a paying adult). Discounts are available for groups of 10 or more.

For tickets and detailed program information, visit www.candlelightconcerts.org. To purchase tickets by phone or reserve handicapped accessible seating, please call 410-997-2324.

Host Families Needed

Columbia Association is seeking host families to host high school students (ages 15 – 17) from Columbia's Sister City, Tema in Ghana (West Africa) from July 15 to 31, 2016. Ten - twelve high school students from a private high school in Ghana, SOS Hermann Gmeiner International College (www.soshgic.edu.gh) will visit Columbia during the two weeks that Spanish and French students will be here participating in Columbia's Sister Cities High School Student Exchange with Cergy-Pontoise, France and Tres Cantos, Spain.

Hosting a student from Ghana is a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to learn about the culture of Ghana and to share your American culture with the Ghanaian student. There is no language requirement as the students speak English. Host families should have a high school student, so that a true exchange experience can take place between the Ghanaian and American teens. SOS Gmeiner school offers an International Baccalaureate degree and most students attend universities following graduation.



The students from Ghana will participate in all the activities planned for the Spanish, French and Columbia/Howard County Sister Cities Exchange students. There will be organized group activities and day trips for the participants as well as "free days" to explore local sights and meet the host family's friends/family. Day trips are planned to Washington, D.C., Ocean City, Baltimore, and New York. Students will also experience a baseball game (the quintessential American summer sport), an amusement park (Hershey Park), Columbia pools, and visit some university campuses in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area.

To become a homestay host family all you need is a desire to treat the student as part of your family, an interest in Ghanaian (West African) culture, a spare bedroom or bed and a car to provide transportation within Howard County. Host families provide meals when the students are at home, and provide money for lunches and dinners when they are out on trips. They also provide transportation to the meeting place for day trips (Oakland Mills Village Center) and for outings during free days. Host family high school students are asked to participate in the planned activities of the Sister Cities Exchange Program with their Ghanaian students.

For more information, please contact Laura Smit, Program Manager for International Exchange & Multicultural Programs at the Columbia Association, Laura.Smit@ColumbiaAssociation.org or 410-715-3162.

Senior Seminar

Hickory Ridge Community Association and Nancy McCord with Long & Foster Realtors Columbia are hosting *Lifetime Transitions: Seminars for Older Adults* at The Hawthorn Center, 6175 Sunny Spring, Columbia.



This popular series is designed to

help older adults make sound decisions as they make the transition into senior life.

Part 1: Aging in Place

Tuesday, April 5, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

[Online Registration](#)

Part 2: Legal Considerations

Tuesday, April 19, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

[Register online](#)

Part 3: Senior Housing Options

Tuesday, May 3, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to register.

The seminars are FREE, but pre-registration is required. Register on-line for all three events or only the one(s) you need. For more information, please contact the village office at 410-730-7327 or Nancy McCord at 443-285-9209.

Live Green in Howard County

Howard County hosts its 9th annual GreenFest on Saturday, April 16, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Howard Community College, Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia. This free event offers something for all ages and features exhibits, workshops, outdoor activities, a native plant sale, local food and more! This year's theme is "Buy Local, Eat Local, Be Local." Vendor applications are still being



accepted. Visit hcgreenfest.org for more information.

Join the 20 Minute Cleanup on Earth Day, Friday, April 22. A Howard County-wide effort to remove trash from the

environment, the initiative also raises awareness of the problem of littering. Not able to participate on April 22nd? People all over the County have the opportunity to get outside for a quick cleanup of litter anytime in April which is Earth Month. This is a satisfying and easy project for businesses, schools, HOA's, Scout Troops, and individuals. For more details please visit livegreenhoward.com or send an email to 20minutecleanup@howardcountymd.gov.

Protect Yourself Against Scams

The Howard County Police Department (HCPD) is encouraging residents to protect themselves against potential solicitation scams, such as home improvement and tree trimming, as they carry out seasonal maintenance on their homes this spring.

Be guarded when your home is approached by unsolicited door-to-door offers, and be very doubtful of any offer that requires payment up front. Scammers may set a price and require immediate payment, but often will not follow through on services as promised. They may return and request additional compensation and will often fail to provide a contract.

Residents should also be wary of anyone who begins performing yard or home improvement services without their consent and then demands payment. While some reputable companies do offer their services door-to-door, they are required to possess a Howard County peddler and solicitor card. Please request to see this ID in addition to a company ID.

Along with the Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs, HCPD encourages residents to consider the following tips:

- Be wary of unsolicited offers or services you didn't seek out.
- Verify contractor or tree services licenses with the Maryland Home Improvement Commission or the Maryland Department of Natural Resources before making any agreement.
- Don't feel pressured to make a decision on the spot.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

HCPD reminds residents to never allow anyone they don't know inside their home. If you notice a suspicious person or vehicle in your neighborhood or if you believe you may have been the victim of a scam, call police at (410) 313-2200. If a crime is in progress, call 911. Feel free to share this message with family members, friends or neighbors who may be vulnerable to scams.

To get more information on current scams, visit the Office of Consumer Affairs [webpage](#).



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